



INFO

Words From The Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy

Baseball is almost back with us, at least, with those of us who look forward to spring and the sound of a piece of wood striking a cowhide sphere that echoes in a stadium or ball park like no other sound on earth!

I love the sport of baseball. I look forward each year to searching the web for the rosters of all the major league teams. Since I enjoy watching other sports during the winter, I don't keep up with the trades or the retirements of professional baseball players during the off season, so reading the rosters gives me some perspective of what to expect from my favorite team (St. Louis Cardinals) and how they may fair against the teams they are scheduled to play against in 2011. (This year is looking bad for Cardinal fans.)

While searching the web, I found an article that remained from last season. In 2010 the teams of note in professional baseball turned out to be the San Francisco Giants, who went on to win the World Series, and the normally hapless Texas Rangers. Last year, the Rangers came up with a pretty good team and actually were good enough to win the series, but one team has to lose, and it was the Rangers. But they gave great account of themselves throughout the season, through the playoffs and into the series.

The article I found was by a journalist in Texas who wrote, Growing up in Arlington, Texas watching The Nolan Ryan Express finish his career setting records with the Texas Rangers but never making it to October made this ball player abort mission and begin rooting for the Yankees. I was 11 then and never thought in a million years that the Texas Rangers would dismantle the Yanks in the 2010 ALDS and bring the World Series to Ag-Town (Arlington). Watching the precision pitching performance from Colby Lewis, who looked as comfortable in the 8th inning as he did in the 1st, was absolutely amazing.

What struck me in this article was those few words that we often hear people say when talking about the unexpected or unbelievable, *never in a million years*. There are things that happen in our lifetime that we would never dream of taking place. For example, the one we believe to be the most beautiful girl in the world saying "Yes" when we ask her for a date. (Happened to me and I married her.) Owning a car that costs more than \$300.00 dollars. (My first car cost exactly \$300.00. I thought it was the largest sum of money existing in the then known free world!) Finally, after four grueling years, getting promoted from the fifth

grade to the sixth! (The teacher obviously didn't like me. Whatever!) There are many things in life that we believe we will never see take place in our lifetime or in a *million years*.

I read in another article ten things that a mother listed that she thought she would never say to her children because she heard them so much as she was growing up.

1. Don't put that in your mouth.
2. Get your hands out of the toilet.
3. Fingers out of your nose/mouth.
4. Wipe that look off your face.
5. This is your side, this is your sister's. Don't cross the line.
6. When I was your age, I walked 37 miles in the snow to school.
7. Go ask your dad.
8. Don't give me that look.
9. I'll give you a cookie if you...
10. Because I said so.

I suppose that each of us have had some experience or see things in life that we never thought we would see. Here is my top ten list (and there are many more) of things I never thought I would see in a million years.

Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

Mona Orr—Chair

Phyllis Belcher

Sue Ellen Fleming

Diania Murphy

Diana Mullins

“INFO” GUEST COLUMN***Christianity and Nursing***

By Jane Hayes, RN

After wanting to be an astronaut for most of my life, I was called to the nursing field, not for the typical reason, “Because I want to help people,” but for a more selfish reason. I wanted to feel like a hero. I wanted to save lives for my own personal glory. It didn’t take long for God to get the message to me that being a nurse wasn’t about me at all. Nursing is a career of service to those who are most vulnerable. I have witnessed God’s hand in all stages of the life span. I wish that I could say that I have been a witness to all of my patients. I hate to admit that my shyness has stopped me from reaching out to everyone the way that God wants me to. Instead, God has put me in contact with patients who have led me on a path that is closer to Him.

I feel very privileged to have been a labor and delivery nurse. The miracle of birth never ceases to amaze me. There is enormous hope for the future wrapped up in such a tiny person. Psalm 139:16 states, “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.” I have trouble planning my next meal, but God has already written our stories.

I think I have learned the most from patients who are dying. It is human nature to fear death. Although the Bible reassures us of our salvation, how our earthly life will end is unknown. I have witnessed Christians who have no trepidation. They know that they are ready.

They look forward to going home. “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. — Revelation 21:4

Now I teach nursing. Teaching has been an amazing experience for me. God is helping me to overcome my shyness and I am able to freely speak to my students about my faith and demonstrate how great a part Jesus plays in the care of our patients. We openly pray with our patients and with each other. I teach by example and hope that when these students are taking care of me one day that they will continue to have a servant’s heart.

God moves in my life everyday. I am very blessed.

Editor’s Note:

Jane Hayes, RN

Jane is a member of Wise First Church of God. She is the daughter of Bob and Sandy Spera and the mother of Ben, Joey, Will and Owen Hayes of our church family.

P.S. We failed to mention that last month’s contributor, Dr. Chris Basham, is also a Wise First Church of God member. Chris is a family practitioner and is married to Heather Lawson Basham, and the father of Luke, Sam and Olivia Basham.

“WORDS” cont’d from Page 1

1. A time when holes in Levi’s are in fashion. (Wish we would have known this 40 years ago.)

2. Experts who cannot agree on whether or not chocolate candy is heart-healthy! (I have the answer to that one. Take it from me, it’s good for you!)

3. A Chinese chef preparing food on a hibachi grill with two knives in his hand answering a text message! (Happened to me. True story. Glad he didn’t get his cell phone mixed up with one of the knives!)

4. Someone from Wise County Virginia speaking the following at a public meeting: “If we consolidate, what will we do if we have two star quarterbacks?” (Might just have a point.....Not!)

5. The Green Bay Packer’s winning another Super Bowl without Brett Farve or Carroll Dale. (But that’s just me.)

6. Somebody, anybody who could sing the correct words to the National Anthem. (I’ll probably still be waiting a million years from now.)

7. Three sequels to the first movie, “Jaws.” (One would have been more than enough. How can that shark keep having babies after it was blown into a million pieces in the first movie?)

8. A celebrity by the name of “Gaga!” (I thought that was what babies say when trying to speak

their first words.)

9. *Pals* coming to Wise. (Now if we can just land a *Purple Cow*, I’ll be set.)

10. Spring! (After saying this, we will probably get another 10 inch snow fall in April.)

Oh well, just musing, and you might get my point. There are some things that we just never thought would happen in our lifetime. I believe, though I have no statistics to bear this out, that this is a normal human emotion or reaction. Life is full of surprises.

But I wonder if Jesus ever thought such things in his life here on earth? I wonder if he thought that Peter would ever amount to a hill of beans. (John and James probably said to Jesus, “Not in a million years.”) I wonder if Jesus ever thought that Paul could stop killing Christians long enough to be converted? I wonder if Jesus ever thought that the cross would be enough to save mankind. I wonder what the human side of God incarnate was thinking when he saw all that was going on about him.

There are times when I begin to think that all is lost for mankind. When we read of preachers, priests and Rabbi’s molesting children in their charge, I wonder if the world can ever be civil again. When we read of all the unrest in the middle east; when we see gas prices skyrocketing upward toward \$4.00 a

gallon, do we think to ourselves, ‘...never in a million years will we have rest.’ When we narrow it down to our own home area where we see such hatred displayed among the various elected officials and the general public, we must wonder to ourselves and aloud at times, “Will we ever learn to get along?” And we think, “Never in a million years.”

Jesus did not come to this earth to be defeated by trivial matters such as I have mentioned. Actually what He said was, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Stay on the path with Jesus, and take hope in Him. It is the one constant in our faith that will last for a million years, plus!

**A great big hug
and many thanks
to our precious
church family for
remembering us for
Pastors Wife
appreciation.
We love you all.**
Diana JEAN

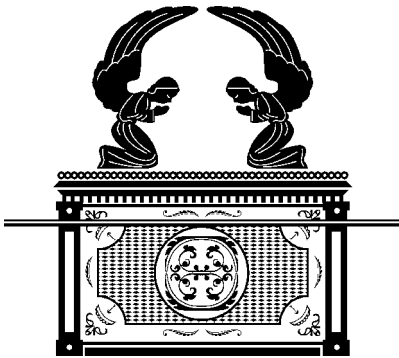




Samaritan's Purse is collecting assorted sizes of Children's Underwear during the month of March.

See Diana Mullins for further information.

+ Christian Symbols +



Ark of the Covenant

The ark was at the center of worship for the Israelites. It contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod. In the Old Testament, the ark was a visible representation of God's throne, or presence, on earth, where he communed with Moses and the high priests. It also represents our earthly bodies, where the Holy Spirit dwells.

Forgiveness is key

“If the wounds of millions are to be healed, what other way is there except through forgiveness? Jesus, at least, leaves us no alternative. The command is stern. The terms are set: ‘But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.’”

—Catherine Marshall



March 4th

World Day
of Prayer